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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Testimony of Allen Biaggi
Administrator, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Assembly Bill 416
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
March 31, 2003

Mr. Chairman and Assembly Natural Resources Committee members, my name is Allen Biaggi and I am the Administrator of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

The Division is opposed to AB416. As written, this bill will have a significant fiscal impact on the funding for Nevada's air quality programs at both the State and local levels. By requiring the inspection of motor vehicles to occur no more frequently than every two years and requiring the State Environmental Commission to exempt vehicles three years old or newer, the revenue generated through fees assessed at the time of testing would be reduced to less than half. The Division and other air quality entities in Nevada rely on this revenue source to partially fund its air programs. This significant reduction in revenues would jeopardize existing air programs in Nevada and, most importantly, threaten public health through the reductions in air quality permitting, enforcement and planning.

Secondly, the provisions of the bill would jeopardize federal approval of the Las Vegas Valley carbon monoxide attainment SIP, the proposed maintenance plans in Clark County and require significant revisions and re-approval of existing plans in Washoe County. In doing so, the bill may impact the air quality improvements made in these jurisdictions and may result in air quality degradation in the future. The inability to meet the requirements contained in these plans may bring about sanctions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which could jeopardize statewide transportation funds.

While we agree with the general intent of this legislation to reduce the regulatory burden on Nevada motorists, a reduction in testing cannot be passed without full evaluation and remediation of the potential increased pollutant emissions and decreased revenues.

We are prepared to work with the bill sponsors to address these issues and insure statewide air quality programs are preserved and enhanced and, most importantly, public health maintained and protected.

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ASSEMBLY NATURAL RES., AGRICULTURE & MINING
DATE: 3/31/03 ROOM: 3161 EXHIBIT C
SUBMITTED BY: Allen Biaggi